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ARTICLES OF BELIEF AND COVENANT, OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH,

IN GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX;
WHICH WAS CONSTITUTED
SEPTEMBER XXX. A. D.
MDCCCXXVII.

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AS God has been pleased to put it into the hearts of a number of persons, to complete in this place a New House for His Worship, and the work having thus far been accomplished in circumstances peculiarly interesting, and with evident tokens of the smiles of the Great Head of the Church, we feel it an incumbent duty, with a view to the glory of the rich grace of our Lord and Saviour, which we trust we have experienced, and to the extension of His kingdom among men, to associate and covenant together in the bonds of fellowship, as members of a church of Christ; and knowing that as 'with the heart man believeth unto righteousness,' so 'with the mouth confession is made unto salvation,' and that it may be useful and gratifying to others, to be correctly informed concerning our be-

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lief, we deem it suitable to make the following

DECLARATION

Of our views of Divine Truth.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired; that it is a perfect rule of faith and practice; and that, among others, it teaches the following important truths:

I. That there is one only living and true God, infinite in every natural and moral perfection.

II. That he has revealed himself as the Father, aud the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, and equal in every divine quality.

III. That man was created holy; but that by wilfully violating the law of his Maker, he fell from that state; so that by nature there is in us no holiness, but we are

all inclined to evil, and are children of wrath; justly exposed to death, and other miseries, temporal, spiritual, and eternal.

IV. That the only way of salvation from this state of guilt and condemnation, is through the righteousness and atonement of Jesus Christ, 'whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood;' having 'so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

V. That all who are brought to repentance and faith, were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world; and that in consequence, not of their own merit, but of God's eternal purpose, the Holy Ghost (without whose influence none would ever repent and believe,) performs the work of regeneration in their hearts.

VI. That nothing can separate true believers from the love of God, but they will

be 'kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation,' the sure and final proof of their being true believers, consisting in the continuance of their attachment and obedience to Christ, till the close of life.

VII. That the only proper subjects of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are professed believers; and that Baptism is properly administered only by immersion, and is, by scriptural example, a pre-requisite to communion at the Lord's table.

VIII. That there will be a resurrection of the just and of the unjust; and that the Lord Jesus Christ will come to judge both the quick and the dead; when those who have continued or died impenitent and unreconciled to God, will be sentenced to endless misery, according to the desert of their sins; and those who have truly repented and turned to God, relying solely on the merits of Him who died the just for the

unjust, will be completely delivered from the dominion of sin, and be admitted into the holy and heavenly Jerusalem, with songs and everlasting joy: so shall they be ever with the Lord.

CHURCH COVENANT.

AS we trust that we have been brought by divine grace to receive the Lord Jesus Christ, and, by the influences of his spirit, to give ourselves up to him, so we do now solemnly covenant with each other, as God shall enable us, to walk together in brotherly love; that we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully admonish and entreat one another, as occasion may require; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect the great duty of prayer for our-

selves and for others; that we will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and, by a pure and lovely example, to win our kindred and acquaintances to the Saviour, to holiness and eternal life; that we will participate in each other's joys, and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows; that we will seek divine aid to enable us to live circumspectly and watchfully in the world; 'denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,' and remembering that, as we have been buried by Baptism, and have been raised up from the liquid grave, so there is on us a special obligation henceforth, to lead a new and holy life; that we will strive together for the support of a faithful, evangelical ministry among us; and, through life, amidst evil report and good report, seek to live to the glory of Him, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.